



Souhegan Valley Rides (2/7/14)

The Regional Community Transit Bus Service
 Successfully serving Amherst, Brookline, Hollis and Milford since 2008
 New pilot programs in Mont Vernon (Sept 2013) and Wilton (March 2014)

Warrant Article 14 supports the BLUE BUS

Souhegan Valley Rides is the dial-a-ride bus service implemented in 2008 to address a documented need for affordable, non-emergency, wheelchair-accessible transportation in our region. Although additional types of rides are available, the focus remains on healthcare related transportation. Buses, drivers and call center operations are contracted from the Nashua Transit System (NTS).



The NTS buses have "low-floor, step-less" entry for ease of passenger use, increased safety and more efficient service.

- *Souhegan Valley Rides (SVR) continues to be a valuable community resource.*
- *Milford residents continue to use the lion's share of the service.*
- *SVR continues to need your support to keep rolling in Milford and the Souhegan Valley.*

Calendar Year	2008*	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Overall
Milford Rides	119	790	1238	2003	2802	2721	9673
Percent of total rides	62.30%	64.54%	79.56%	73.94%	76.06%	73.98%	74.17%

*Oct-Dec 2008, 1st three months of operation

13,042 total rides provided since 10/1/08



Since 2011, SVR has successfully leveraged federal funding on an 80% federal - 20% local match basis to help fund the bus service. These funds allow the service to operate 5 days per week and have helped set the stage for pilot programs in Mont Vernon and Wilton. Local funding remains critical to meet the federally required match and to fully fund five-day per week service.

Souhegan Valley Rides

A regional curb-to-curb bus service using wheelchair-accessible buses

Current Towns Served

Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Milford, Mont Vernon and starting March 1st Wilton

Assisting those in greatest need – senior citizens, residents living with a disability, and residents who are unable to drive. Other residents may use the service as space is available

Schedule

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
(including travel time to/from the NTS garage)

Types of rides provided

- Non-emergency healthcare appointments, including doctor visits, dialysis, physical therapy, counseling and hospital services.
- Rides to social service agencies, senior centers, pharmacies, town facilities & more
- Rides to five local shopping plazas are available on Mondays and Thursdays.

Ride coverage area

Rides are provided to and from destinations in Amherst, Brookline, Hollis and Milford, and in Nashua.

Fare

Riders are asked to pay \$2.00 each way.
Exact Fare Only – No change can be given.
Bus pass program is available to those in greatest need – call for details
Service animals are permitted and
Personal Care Attendants ride free.

To register or to schedule a ride

Call 880-0100 ext. 1

Monday through Friday and
at least 48 hours in advance

**For more information, please call
880-0100 then dial extension 1**

**Ride services including
scheduling, vehicles and drivers
are contracted from the**



Nashua Transit System

Community Benefits - Provides an invaluable service to residents who, either temporarily or permanently, are unable to drive. It is the type of transportation infrastructure that adds to the overall “livability” of our hometowns.

Budget Objective - Assure that Souhegan Valley Rides will be able to operate 5 days/week in fiscal year 2015 and meet any federal matching fund requirements.

Community Shares - Are based on historical use by each community, anticipated direct service costs and any carry-over in municipal funding from the previous fiscal year.

Town	2014-2015 Community Shares requested	FY2013 shares	FY2012 shares
Amherst	\$3650	\$5100	\$4800
Brookline	\$550	\$1500	\$1100
Hollis	\$3650	\$2100	\$4400
Milford	\$28,950	\$28,100	\$26,500
Total	\$36,800	\$36,800	\$36,800

Wilton and Mont Vernon shares prorated for pilot period.

The **Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative** (SVTC) is a local grassroots organization of residents, appointed or supported by their Boards of Selectmen, who represent their hometowns and together oversee the bus service. All participating communities are guaranteed representation on the SVTC Board of Directors and a voice in guiding the evolution of this regional transportation service.

SVTC Board of Directors: Nate Carmen, At-Large, Chairperson; Dennie Townsend, Brookline, Vice-Chairperson; Marcia Nelson, Milford, Secretary; Susan Pendleton, Milford, Treasurer; Rebecca Crowther, Hollis; Carolyn Mitchell, Amherst; Paula Pestana, Mont Vernon.

Advisory Board: Bill Parker, Dick Burpee, and Stan Swerchesky.

Planning Coordinator: Janet Langdell